

AGGRESSIVE DONS BUNDLE WYCOMBE OUT OF CUP RACE

Rough Tactics Rouse Supporters' Wrath

WYCOMBE WANDERERS, handicapped by a second half injury to centre-forward Peter James, were bundled unceremoniously out of the Amateur Cup race on Saturday by a rough, tough and aggressive Wimbledon side, whose boisterous tactics frequently roused the wrath of the big contingent of Wycombe supporters at Plough-lane, Wimbledon.

Fifteen times in the second half the Dons were pulled up for infringements which often left Wycombe players sprawling, and after the match Wycombe secretary Bill Hayter said he intended to refer, in his report to the F.A., on the control of the game, commenting: "The referee should have taken sterner

action."

A goal down at ten minutes, Wycombe struggled hard for the rest of the game to get the all-important equaliser—but lacked a marksman like Eddie Reynolds, writes 'Nova.'

No-one could deny that Wimbledon deserved their victory, but it was the manner in which it was achieved that caused concern. With the collection of stars, they might have been expected to win on football ability alone.

Mid-way through the second half the home side became intent apparently, on getting the ball at all costs, and the remainder of the game became a rough-house.

Goalkeeper Ken Brown played probably his best game ever for the club, with many brilliant saves. Reynolds, the Dons' towering centre-forward put in shots and headers from all angles but Brown was equal to everything he could do.

OUT-PLAYED

In the first ten minutes it looked as if Wycombe were in for a thrashing. Brian Martin and Micky Moore, the inside-forwards, repeatedly split the Wycombe defence, but Reynolds twice shot wide.

But the burly Wimbledon side, baulked by some brilliant keeping by Ken Brown, and often back-peddling against lively counter-attacks by the diehard Wanderers, had to rely on only one goal for their passage to the fourth round.

BROWN TO RESCUE

Wimbledon opened the second half in great style and were only thwarted by Brown. Reynolds had another great header saved when a goal seemed inevitable. Then Keats shot over the bar from close in and a lob from Martin, playing on the right-wing for most of the game, was again saved by Brown.

When these efforts failed, Wimbledon appeared to realise that just one goal from Wycombe would be enough to earn them a replay and their anxiety was reflected in their play.

Peter James and Tony Horseman were severely dealt with whenever they touched the ball. Bates, out on the left-wing, seemed content to stay out of trouble, and the main threat to Wimbledon's chances lay on the Wanderers' right flank.

George Blair, giving one of his best displays of the season, and Dave Thomas, hardest working defender on the field, kept Worley well plied with passes.

But for all Worley's artistry and Blair's strenuous efforts no-one looked capable of putting the finishing touches.

The inevitable goal came when England right-half Bobby Ardrey picked up a loose ball inside his own half and passed down the centre to Brian Martin. Martin ran ten yards with the ball before beating the slow-covering Wycombe defence with a beautifully-judged pass to Moore, who found the net while Brown was lying on the ground.

When Wycombe hit back briefly, George Blair, the only Wycombe forward not afraid to shoot, put in a tremendous volley just over the bar.

Wimbledon however, kept on top with first-time tackling. Only skipper Len Worley was able to move with much confidence. He led Brian Rudge quite a dance and often had three or more defenders marking him. But all his efforts could not produce the vital goal.

Wimbledon's tactics were simple enough. Whenever they got the ball they swung it down the middle for Reynolds to chase. It worked almost every time, for although Beck and Lewis kept the wingers in check, wing halves Ted Murphy and Bobby Ardrey kept pounding the ball up the middle.